

## **Abraham -- the Man Who Obeyed, Sorta**

Chapter 20 -- "Take my sister please..again"

Chapter 21-- The birth of Isaac "God has given me laughter."

Fast-forward another 20 or so years

*22 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. 5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you." 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided." 15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.*

A lot of ways to interpret this -- scriptures the approach to use:

*Hebrews 11 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.*

What was the culture of the time and the surrounding peoples?

Abraham could well have thought of the command that God gives in the 22nd chapter of Genesis in light of the terrible religious context in which he lives.

But Abraham does expect \_\_\_\_\_ !

For the first time in all Abraham's experience with God, he is faced with a conflict between God's \_\_\_\_\_ and God's \_\_\_\_\_.

How can this conflict be resolved?

Abraham could conclude that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

But Abraham becomes confident that God will do something to \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham intends to sacrifice Isaac. But by this time he is sure that the outcome will not be the \_\_\_\_\_ of Isaac.

What has Abraham come to believe?

At just the right moment, God interrupts Abraham who is ready \_\_\_\_\_.

It is possible that the place on Mount Moriah, where Abraham offered Isaac, is the very place where in later years King David bought the threshing floor of Onan as a place for sacrifice which later became the site for the Temple.

What else happened on Moriah?

*23 Now Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.3 Then Abraham rose from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,4 "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; give me a burial site among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight." 5 The sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, 6 "Hear us, my lord, you are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; none of us will refuse you his grave for burying your dead." 7 So Abraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. 8 And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is*

*your wish for me to bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and approach Ephron the son of Zohar for me,<sup>9</sup> that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he owns, which is at the end of his field; for the full price let him give it to me in your presence for a burial site.” 10 Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth; even of all who went in at the gate of his city, saying, 11 “No, my lord, hear me; I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead.” 12 And Abraham bowed before the people of the land. 13 He spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, “If you will only please listen to me; I will give the price of the field, accept it from me that I may bury my dead there.” 14 Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 15 “My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead.” 16 Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, commercial standard. 17 So Ephron’s field, which was in Machpelah, which faced Mamre, the field and cave which was in it, and all the trees which were in the field, that were within all the confines of its border, were deeded over 18 to Abraham for a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field at Machpelah facing Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 So the field and the cave that is in it, were deeded over to Abraham for a burial site by the sons of Heth.*

Illusions and super-illusions

To grieve is to the \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham in the tent. This is the only time we are told that Abraham \_\_\_\_\_.

When Abraham rose up from before his dead.

What is going on with this bargaining for the cave?

Abraham sees himself as a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Who are the sons of Heth?

What does Abraham want?

Who owns it? What is his offer and how generous is it?

How is the price stated?

What does Abraham do?

Chapter 24 -- A bride for Isaac..a hometown girl, not a Canaanite hussy.

Chapter 25 --- A 2nd marriage with lots of kids and then death at age 175.

What do you think of Abraham? What have you learned?

